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Agenda items 103 and 104

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Letter dated 29 March 1993 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 47/202 C, requested the Secretary-General to submit, if necessary, recommendations on possible restructuring of the Office of Conference Services at its forty-eighth session through the Committee on Conferences and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

Inasmuch as the Secretary-General's proposals on the restructuring of the Office of Conference Services were to be contained in the revised estimates for 1992-1993, at its organizational meeting, held on 2 March 1993, the Committee on Conferences decided to consider the matter in March prior to consideration thereof in the Fifth Committee. Accordingly, at its 344th meeting, held on 26 March 1993, the Committee considered the revised estimates for the Office of Conference Services for 1992-1993.

The Committee noted that the purpose of the restructuring was to enhance the efficiency and smooth functioning of the Secretariat and was of the view that the process should be undertaken in a comprehensive and integrated manner and within a specified period of time.

The Committee also noted that the proposed restructuring within the Department of Administration and Management would result in a gap between the head of the Department at the level of under-secretary-general and heads of offices at the D-2 level.

The Committee sought assurance that the redistribution of publishing functions among three organizational units, namely the Office of Conference

Services, the Office of General Services and the Department of Public Information, would not result in increased costs or delays or inefficiencies in the processing of parliamentary documentation, noting that there was a close link between documents processing and the effective management of meetings. The Committee also drew attention to its mandate to monitor the policy of the Organization on publications, and requested the Secretariat to ensure that appropriate services were provided to the Committee on Conferences through close coordination between the Office of Conference Services and the Department of Public Information.

(Signed) Mahmoud BARIMANI